

APRIL 2005

MARCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Electrical Contractors' Association of City of Chicago's (ECA's) March Membership Meeting was held on Wednesday, March 2, 2005 at the Rosewood Restaurant, Rosemont, Illinois. The guest speaker for this event was Mr. Art Ludwig, Director of the Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL). Prior to his appointment by Governor Rod Blagojevich last July as Director, Mr. Ludwig was the Business Manager for Union Local #701, IBEW. He began his career in the electrical industry in 1972 when he was accepted into the DuPage County Joint Apprenticeship Training Program. He then worked in the field as a Project Manager, Estimator, and a General Foreman. He also served as an Apprenticeship Instructor for fourteen years. Director Ludwig became a Business Representative for Local 701 in 1989 and was named Assistant Manager of the Local in 1991. In 1994, Art subsequently became the Business Manager of Local 701. Director Ludwig gave an extensive background of the Illinois Department of Labor's mission and the laws currently enacted. He focused primarily on the provisions of the Prevailing Wage Act and the importance of following the regulations. He closed his presentation with a Q & A Session and was met with a round of applause. We appreciate the time and effort Director Ludwig has made to the Association and thank him for his insights offered during his presentation.



Pictured above from left to right are:
Steven Diamond, ECA President, Malko Electric Company and
Art Ludwig, Director of the Illinois Department of Labor

BASIC ELECTRICAL ESTIMATING WORKSHOP

The Electrical Contractors' Association of City of Chicago's (ECA's) Research & Education Committee through the National Electrical Contractors Association Management Education Institute (NECA MEI) is again proud to offer the Basic Electrical Estimating Workshop. The program is to be held May 23 - 27, 2005 at the Wyndham Drake Hotel, Oak Brook, Illinois. Robert Mooty, MEI Instructor and a former NECA Field Representative will conduct the week long workshop. This program is offered to ECA members. Registration information will be forwarded, shortly. We hope that you will be able to attend this informative, dynamic workshop. If you have any questions, please contact the Association at: (708) 531-0022.

Electrical Contractors' Association of Chicago and Cook County

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FMI PRODUCTIVITY BUILDER WORKSHOP

The Electrical Contractors' Association of City of Chicago's (ECA's) Research and Education Committee is sponsoring a program presented by FMI, a Management Consulting firm called, "Productivity Builder Workshop." The workshop is scheduled for April 26, 2005, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at McDonald's Hamburger University, Oak Brook, Illinois. The program will highlight FMI's 2004 - 2005 Contractor Productivity Survey Results, as well as focus on improving construction productivity. The program is designed to improve field productivity for labor-intensive contractors and subcontractors. The one-day workshop will be divided into four sections: Worksmart Workshop - a group session for key operations managers; Productivity Needs Assessment - Conducted to identify key issues and productivity-drivers regarding: organizational issues, project planning and scheduling, project management and control, project support, project performance, among other influencers; Implementation Planning Session - Conducted to define the work plan, a schedule, ways to validate the progress and results; Implementation Phase - FMI provides support in regard to the initiative. We hope that you will be able to participate with this seminar. Please contact the Association if you have any questions. Registration information has already been forwarded to all ECA members.



NATIONAL ISSUES CONFERENCE

The Campaign for Quality Construction National Issues Conference is scheduled for May 3 - 5, 2005, Grand Hyatt Hotel, Washington, D.C. The conference is your opportunity to help your industry move forward this year on key public policy issues, including tort reform/insurance, pension law reform, federal spending for industry growth, health benefits and tax simplification. It's important that specialty contractors play an active role in shaping these major issues that are critical to the success of their businesses.

Five associations sponsor the conference: National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA), Mechanical Contractors Association, Sheet Metal Contractors, Finishing Contractors Association, and the Association of Union Constructors. The conference includes issues briefings, addresses by legislative leaders, face-to-face meetings with your members of Congress and/or their staffs.

The ECA Executive Committee has again approved scholarships in the amount to cover the Registration Fee and two night's hotel stay for this event. The ECA will reimburse members upon completion of the conference.

Registration information has already been forwarded. We hope that you are able to participate with this important legislative activity. Legislative Position Papers can be found at: www.constructionalliance.org.



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NECA DISTRICT 4 & 7 CONFERENCE -- REGISTRATION INCENTIVE AVAILABLE --

The NECA District IV and VII Midwest Regional Conference is scheduled for June 19 - 22, 2005 at the Hyatt Regency Resort - Lake Tahoe, Incline, Nevada. Registration information has been forwarded to all ECA members. However, on March 2, 2005, the Electrical Contractors' Association of City of Chicago's Executive Committee approved the reimbursement payment of all NECA Midwest Regional Conference Registration Fees for all registered Chapter member attendees. This was done in an effort to increase participation with this annual event. We hope that you will be able to utilize this incentive for your attendance. Again, the current registration fee of \$300 per adult (\$600.00 per couple) will be reimbursed on your behalf by the Association. Reimbursements will be made after the conference.

The Hyatt Regency Resort offers many activities in addition to the 24-hour Casino, private beach and pools, which include: fishing, sailing, horseback riding, sailboarding and hiking. Various sightseeing and tours can be arranged with the resort, including a paddlewheel cruise, balloon or tram rides, a tour of the Ponderosa Ranch. For children, Camp Hyatt offers a program with activities indigenous to the area, an outdoor play area, and a "kiddies only" wading pool. The Stillwater Spa is a 20,000 sq. ft. facility offering a wide variety of services, including: the Sierra Stones Massage, Ashiatsu "Barefoot" Massage, and the High Altitude Body Scrub. Spa appointments can be made by calling direct at: (775) 832-1234. The Stillwater Spa fills up quickly, so make appointments early. Further details on hotel amenities, as well as room descriptions and pictures can be reached at the resort's website at: www.laketahoe.hyatt.com.

The conference agenda was included in the recent mailout. As a reminder, the Chapter function is scheduled for Monday, June 20, 2005 and will be an outdoor reception/buffet dinner at the Water Gardens area of the resort. If registering using the paper registration, please retain a copy and send the original registration form along with a check made payable to "NECA" for NECA Registration/golf outing registration. Whether using the on-line method or the paper process, the hotel deposit must be charged to a credit card. The deadline for registration forms to be sent to ECA is April 27, 2005. If you have any questions, please contact the ECA office at: (708) 531-0022.

NECA MANUAL OF LABOR UNITS

NECA is now processing orders for the new 2005 - 2006 edition of NECA's *Manual of Labor Units* (MLU). The *NECA Manual of Labor Units* is viewed as the industry standard for electrical estimators.

Just as a reminder, each NECA member is entitled to a free copy; however, NECA needs to know as soon as possible whether you prefer your complimentary MLU in book form or CD-ROM format.

Please contact the ECA office at: (708) 531-0022 if you need a copy of the *NECA Manual of Labor Units* Order Form. You may use the same form to purchase extra copies at the NECA-member price of only \$30.00 each, for the book or CD.

Please fax NECA the completed Order Form, quickly, as the cut-off for the availability of the free copy is May 20, 2005.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 4 - May 25
 EPS I, II, III Programs
 (EPS: I - Mon., II - Tues., III - Wed.)
 Holiday Inn Oak Brook, Illinois

April 13, 2005
 ECA Regular Membership Meeting
 Itasca Country Club Itasca, IL

April 26, 2005
 FMI Productivity Builder Workshop
 8 AM - 5 PM; Program holds 120 people
 McDonald's Hamburger University
 Oak Brook, Illinois

May 3 - 5, 2005
 Construction Alliance National Issues Conference
 Washington, DC

May 11, 2005
 ECA Regular Membership Meeting
 Maggiano's Banquets Oak Brook, IL

May 23 - 27, 2005
 Basic Electrical Estimating Workshop
 Wyndham Drake Hotel Oak Brook, IL

May 31 & June 2, 2005
 Managing & Vitalizing Productivity (MVP)
 McDonald's Hamburger University
 Oak Brook, Illinois

Please contact the Association office for further information on any of these events, as well as visiting the ECA website at: www.ecachicago.com for the 2004 Calendar of Events.

**ECA 34TH ANNUAL
 SPRING CONFERENCE**

As a reminder, the Electrical Contractors' Association of City of Chicago (ECA) will hold it's 34th Annual Spring Conference on June 8 - 9, 2005 at the Grand Geneva Resort, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. The agenda for the conference includes, the Wednesday golf outing and the evening Membership Meeting and the Thursday morning business session. These events are offered only to accredited representatives of ECA member firms. We hope all ECA members will take the opportunity to participate with the 34th Annual Spring Conference. Registration information has been sent to all ECA members. Please contact the Association at: (708) 531-0022 with any questions.

LiveWire is a publication of the Electrical Contractors' Association of Chicago, Inc., Five Westbrook Corporate Center, Suite 940, Westchester, IL 60154.

Members are encouraged to submit articles and ideas for stories to the Association office.

Please note: The totals below for '04 & '05 include all electricians working under the Principal, Communication and Residential Agreements.

JANUARY EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

	2004	2005	Cumulative Hourly Totals
NUMBER OF CONTRACTORS	1074(Estimate)	1065	2004 1,236,836
JOURNEYPERSONS & APPRENTICES EMPLOYED	11,440	11,233	2005
HOURS WORKED	1,236,836	1,262,783	1,262,783